B Wagner.

My Billy. We've been having the devil of a time but now thank goodness telegrams have come to say that the children are all right - I thought of course they must have got measles too & our letters all went wrong & we telegraphed early yesterday & got no reply till tonight Cosima was preparing to start for Stuttgart as I don't feel much confidence in the measles all that can be done - However Providence seems to have singled out me alone at present for disease & it it damnable - And I swear After giving through all the fever we hoped me would be well. But now I find I have to lie in bed a week, feed on slops & feel quite ill into the bargain, is too depressing. I must grumble to you about it for I want sympathy badly - Cosima was relieved at its not being typhoid of course - but as I'd never expected that I was simply in despair - The prospect of another week in bed, with brown flowers crawling over the walls, crimped maps over the ceiling, bells ringing at all hours & every hideous Teutonic noise going on all day & night is hellish - However I shall get through it.

& there's no need to worry yourself

Barn the incessant scratching

Bologna.

May 10.

My Belly.

I was very glad of your letter this morning. What excitements. I wish I could tell Clive for its very hard work keeping them all to myself. I want badly to talk about Ada after to-morrow. What is Noel like? Do you like her? Is she pretty? Does it seem hopeful? And what would they live on? I'm very much interested & feel very much part of it all here. Do tell me all you can. Clive now thinks I certainly know some thing about you & L. & in fact guesses pretty accurately the whole state of affairs but I suppose I'd still better not tell him? I don't think it would make much odds but I won't tell him late you say I may. I have moved to another room for the first time today & am getting well quickly. Lord knows what I have had. There was only a rash for 2 days & then only on my chest. I remember when you had measles the rash lasted at least a week. However the doctor, having been mistaken me, must admit himself to be again & whatever it was I'm getting all right which is a blessing. I'm being fed up on champagne so as to get me ready to start for Bagni di Poretta on Sunday. What we shall do afterwards is uncertain. I hope I'll go to Venice & carry out some of our original plan. Roger has of course been explicit & kept us

cheerful. Clive, as you may imagine, was in a fearful state of mind when I was told, & when it was discovered the measles was formally commenced that he was ill with them too. The fever has not yet quite left him in spite of all we can say. Rogers patience reached its limit when he wanted to take his temp. in the middle of the night & found that Clive had carried the thermometer to bed with him. But we are all cheering up & I am bent upon getting something out of Italy before I leave it.

Tell me all the news you can. I hope you didn't have Thellusson & Imogene hallaing my fears. For we got telegrams from them. But I shall be very glad of your letter telling me all about the brats. I wish I could see Quentin in the beach.

Yours VB.

NYPL

Rota 9/72

Palace Hotel
Florence -

My Billy. This address will amuse you - We found Prattle such terribly crowding that although the hotel was good. he wouldn't stand it. Florence seemed the only place. because I was the only person who knew Harry Wyndham to me came here. It is always pale quiet & comfortable but terribly as are all big hotels. I am however, thankfully able to walk a very short way & have now in addition collapsed with my affairs. so this does very well as I have a good view & comfortable sofa. But Clive has now begun to realize how annoying it all is & we have had before us Ravenna & Venice & shall go on from here to Rimini for a few days - then I think Pisa & perhaps Parma & so I suppose home - Clive would rather like to go straight home. I feel I can't leave Italy without seeing something of it - so far I have seen practically nothing - It is all very depressing We seem to be unlucky. Here is a fortnight of sunshine gone in the most hellish manner - I take my paintings & am simply longing to get out & see a little I wonder if we shall ever get a decent time abroad again - Please thank Leonard for his letter which was most welcome. I'll answer it soon. All our letters have gone astray I'm sure & so I have no news. & I don't know where to tell you to write. Oh damn.
Well - I suppose London is full of affairs I must write to Adrian who wrote me a very nice letter - which with

great luck. I was able to keep from Clive altogether. but it was pure chance. If he had seen it come. I don't know how I could have kept it to myself without rousing suspicions. Your letters are quite safe. I never show them & read them to myself first. but then people must be careful & give me something at least that I can read aloud. I am not in love the Cornish here & only hope we shant encounter them. but it would take much more than we leave I hope on Friday. Its odd to revisit this hotel - I think of the time when you were just beginning your readings & all our adventures since. Now I suppose you've embarking on another Billy. Is Leonard as charming as ever & are you falling in love with him? I hope so.

I wish I knew more about Adrian affairs. It would be odd to marry a first & 19 - & odd to have me for a sister in law. But I think it will be much the best thing in the world for Adrian to marry - It really would be awful pity if he didn't. What effect does Ly in Ott have on him.

Oh dear this is a tedious & rather complaining letter but I do feel so cross. Its so abominable to have spirit even to quarrel & Clive as you know, gets so overwhelmed by misfortunes -

Yr VB.

I enclose my letter to Adrian as I don't want Clive to know I've written to him

I think it would be quite safe to write to Ruda next to 20 to Ferma in Posta - Siena -

NYPL

Florence Station.

May 17

Jan. 1 - At L'Siena.
No letters since we've
been here but I hope
I find some waiting
there. We have been
there sight-seeing the last
day or two & I have
had a moment. I am
Kam the merry

KL

5791 Edit. Brunner & C., Como e Zurich Stab. eliografico

NYPL
S 18
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Mrs. Stephen
38 Brunswick Sq.
London WC

Inghilterra

Firenze - Arno col ponte a S. Trinita